

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Allen, H.D.

[Boston, MA]

1915-1921

Boston, Mass.,  
Nov. 9, 1915.

Mr. Henry R. Drowne,  
54 Pearl St. Cor. Broad,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am assembling a collection of Confederate Money to present to the Brookline, Mass. Public Library, and I have evolved a plan for exhibiting it which is unique, and so far as I know has never been attempted by anyone North or South. An outline of my plan is enclosed. There is a \$10.00 bill of Sept. 2, 1861, on which is the picture of a man, who has always been supposed to be Confederate Senator Williamson S. Oldham of Texas. In July 1915 a book was published by Wm. W. Bradbeer of 165 No. Fulton Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y., in which he says that the picture is that of Edward C. Elmore of Columbia, S. C. who signed the so called Montgomery Bills. I have heard from his son Hon. Edward C. Elmore, who is now living in Columbia, and I now have a picture of his father, from which the likeness in Capers' "Life and Times of C. G. Memminger"

was engraved, and he says the picture on the bill is not his father. I am told that engravers were mighty scarce in the South during the War, and that in spite of what Mr. Elmore says, the picture may be that of his father, who was the Treasurer of the Confederacy. It is incredible that the authorities should have put on a bill the picture of a Senator from Texas, and utterly ignored the head of their Treas. Dept., which Mr. Elmore was. Mr. W. A. Clark, Pres. of the Carolina Nat. Bank, has given me your name as being possibly able to put me on to a photograph or a likeness of Mr. W. S. Oldham. I wish my historical notes to be accurate and I shall not frame my exhibit till I settle this matter for all time. Can you assist me having in mind that it is a "Labor of Love" on my part, intended for a permanent public display, and model for large libraries and historical societies to copy or duplicate? Naturally I am most anxious to secure an actual duplicate of the picture on the bill,



(3.)

and I shall be ever so much obliged for any  
help you can give me.

Yours truly,

H. D. Allen  
21 Winter St.

Dear Mr Wood

Sorry but I cannot help Mr Winter —  
If you can do anything please write direct  
to him. Gazetteer (John W.) published  
Attends the first list of Confederate Bills  
and perhaps you may find it in the  
library. The note he refers to is  
Scott # 35

do not return this letter

Yours very truly  
Henry Russell Browne

File  
H W Allen

11/28/15

Dear Mr. Brown:-

The picture on the 10<sup>00</sup> bill  
of Sept. 2-1861 is not Oldham  
in spite of what Catalogues &  
dealers for 50 years have claimed.  
Mr. Bradburn has the credit of the  
discovery. For ~~proof~~ proof see  
"A Comprehensive History of Texas  
byooten Vol. 2. Page 144  
on which is a picture of  
Oldham. I am now trying to  
find out who it is.  
Mr. Elmore (a son of Edward C  
Elmore) says the picture on the  
bill is not his father.  
Question!! Who is it.  
Our Southern friends are all  
"hot info" over this matter.  
Isn't it passing strange that



2

no one in the South for 50 years  
has even discovered this &  
still more so that no one seems  
to know who it is.

The Bradburn discovery is the  
most interesting on Confed.  
money of anything that has  
come up for years.

WAIT !!!

Thank you very much. If you  
know anything more for me  
wise would you?

Sincerely  
H. W. Allen

21 Winton St.  
Boston Mass

For Mr Wood





**LATER:** It is now discovered that a \$10.00 bill, in design exactly like the above, was issued by the Mechanics Savings Bank of Savannah, Ga., in February, 1859, two years before the Confederacy was even organized, and two and one-half years before the Confederacy adopted and issued it. The proof is almost absolute that the man whose likeness appears was either a Georgian or a local Savannah man, — maybe President John Richardson who signed the bill, a mayor of the city, a governor, senator, or some prominent man of the State. It will be a great surprise to the South to know that this is a borrowed design and that no part of it has any reference to the Confederacy, its activities or any of its officials. Proof of identity of portrait still wanted.

## A Mystery of the South

Above is a half-tone reproduction of a Confederate \$10.00 bill of Sept. 2, 1861, and is made for historical and research purposes only. The picture in the lower left corner has gone unchallenged for 50 years as a likeness of Hon. Williamson S. Oldham, a Senator representing the State of Texas in the Confederate Congress. It is NOT Mr. Oldham. I call on all loyal Southern people, librarians (State, City or Town), historians, teachers, students, members of all Confederate Veteran Societies, all men who were at Richmond in 1861 (and maybe employed in the Confederate Treasury), any one who knows any of the descendants of Leggett, Keatinge & Ball, who engraved the bill (either at Richmond or Columbia, S. C.), and last but not least, the great army of newspaper men who often do things when all others fail, to take up and conduct a vigorous search, in an endeavor to find out who this party was, and thus solve the great mystery. This information is needed to complete historical notes for a permanent educational exhibit of Confederate money in a public library, and is to be a model for all Southern libraries and historical societies to follow and for Southern people to visit when in Boston. The bills are to be framed under glass, with an historical note under each.

To the first person sending me definite proof, including a small card photograph, exactly duplicating the likeness on the bill (which I may retain), I will pay \$20.00. ALL POSTMASTERS AND LIBRARIANS RECEIVING THIS CIRCULAR WILL PLEASE DISPLAY IT ON A BULLETIN BOARD AND GIVE IT ALL THE PUBLICITY POSSIBLE.

H. D. ALLEN, 21 WINTER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

The man is located!! John Elliott Ward.



I am assembling a collection of Confederate Money to present to the Brookline, Mass., Public Library, as a permanent historical exhibit. I am utterly astounded to find that there is nothing in the whole United States, built on any such lines as I am planning. For the purpose of a public display, I have assumed that one bill of each issue is ample, without going into series numbers and minor details. My plan is therefore to make my exhibit a model for large Libraries and Historical Societies to follow, if they feel disposed to do so. I intend to place the notes in large frames, about three feet square, each frame to swing on a rod, and each frame to be practically what one would call a leaf in a large wooden book.

My plan is absolutely unique in that I intend to display under each bill, typewritten historical notes, covering all data I am able to discover. This is the great feature of my work. A collection pasted in a book means little to anyone but an expert, but with interestingly written historical notes under each bill, it will compell attention.

I have already received requests to publish my research work, but can not promise to do this, as all I am doing is a "Labor of Love" and it has already run into much more money than I expected.

My work and historical notes will be free for anyone to duplicate or copy. With this is a rough sketch of my framing plan.

It is remarkable how much of interest there is in the study of these notes. I shall also display an authentic likeness of Hon. Edward C. Elmore, who signed the Montgomery Bills, as Treasurer of the Confederacy.

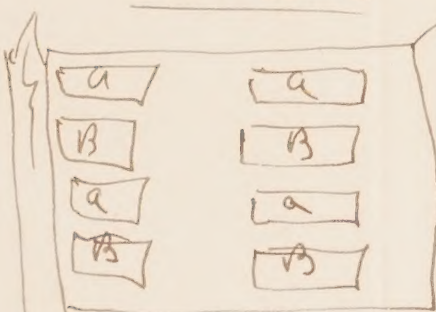
Those who are studying Confederate Currency may be interested to know that a very exhaustive work has just been published (July 1915) by Mr. W. W. Bradbeer, whose address is 165 No. Fulton Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y. He lists more varieties of notes than any one has heretofore believed to exist. I consider it the peer of all publications on the subject, and it should be in every Southern Public Library and Historical Society.

Mr. H. D. Allen,  
21 Winter St., Boston, Mass.

*Observer*

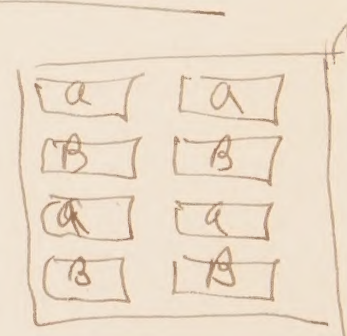
*Frame 3 ft square  
Glass both sides.  
Swings around to show*

*Reviewer*



*a - Confederate Bill  
B - Historical note.*

*Standard*





September 8th, 1920

H. D. Allen, Esq.  
8 Winter Street  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Your letter addressed to Mr. Noe and containing the rare duplicate of the Confederate bill safely received. Mr. Noe is away upon his vacation but I know will appreciate your gift to the Society's Collection, and will thank you personally for it upon his return. In the meantime, may I express my pleasure at having the opportunity to add this extremely important piece to our Museum.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator

W/E



September 16, 1920

Mr. H. D. Allen  
21 Winter Street  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Allen:

Your letter of September 6th addressed to Mr. Roe  
was given to me yesterday on my return from Europe.

On behalf of the Society I beg to acknowledge your  
gift of the very rare Ten Dollar note of 1867, issued by the  
Mechanics Savings Bank of Savannah that shows the portrait later  
used by the Confederacy. We appreciate having this Note  
very much, and again I want to thank you.

Yours truly,

HW/2

Curator



L M BOOMER  
MANAGING DIRECTOR.

# Hotel McAlpin

Broadway at 34th St.

New York City

2 { 20 { 21

Dear Mr. Moore -

Just back for Monday  
& very busy. Will call at  
9:30 a.m. I have made  
another big find, & am going  
to share it with a V. S.

Will you please get out all  
the 5.00 Confidential Manuscripts  
notes you have & I can  
see them without waiting?

I have 10 Confidential Manuscripts,  
just as signed & when had a  
fold or two.  
I have yet to find a man  
who has more than one. Best



looking perfect, bright & clear.  
They came from a man to  
whom they were left by his  
grandfather who was a  
friend of the Richmond.

Some grand father, — what?

This is the first & only contact  
with the 1st & 2nd years that  
had any back formation.

They took in a bunch of  
money but I had to have  
'em). Some of the old  
at about 1.25 each.

No quotation on mint copies  
for the 1st & 2nd years.

Only  
H. H. Allen  
Bates

February 25th, 1921

H. D. Allen, Esq.  
21 Winter Street  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Allen:

I am sorry that you made misconnections  
and got up to the Bronx instead of our Society  
as I would have enjoyed very much seeing your  
Manouvrier notes. They certainly must have  
been a great find, and I congratulate you on  
getting them.

Trusting to see you some other time, I am

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E



# Allen's Boston Bead Store

8 WINTER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

WE HAVE ALL **BEADS**  
KINDS OF

For Decorating Waists and Gowns

Neck Chains

Pearl Beads

Bead Looms

Steel Beads

Hudson Bay Beads for Portieres

Send Stamp for Descriptive Circulars and Samples

Beading Needles

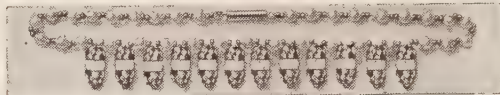
Mourning Beads

Bags and Purses

Seed Beads



Coat Chain



Crystal Olive Chain

CROCHET AND TATTING THREADS

D · M · C THREADS AND NOTIONS

Boston, March 2, 1921

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
The American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway & 155th St.  
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

I am very sorry that I failed to reach you when I was in New York. It is hard lines with me for I am quite hard of hearing and I must have misunderstood something that was said to me in regard to getting up to your place.

I write to ask if you will write and send me a description of your Manouvrier notes; by that I mean the number, series and condition. I would also like to know if you have more than one and if you have would you consider sending me what you have in even exchange for some that are crisp and absolutely mint?

*Bradley*

Mr. Bradley, to whom I referred this matter, and who has seen, examined and classified more confederate money than any man living, wrote me that upon receipt of my letter it caused four of his gray hairs to turn black--but not red; in other words he

says such a thing as a mint Manouvrier note is unknown. Therefore, when I tell you that I have ten copies you will still further agreed that I made a great find and I desire to share it with your library and also with the Connecticut State Library. Please, therefore, send me a description and let me know if your broken bank and other bills are still in a book packed away in the safe. If so I am sorry to hear of it because they are not doing anybody any good to amount to anything. These ought to be displayed in frames where the public can have a chance at them but I am fully aware of the fact that paper money is not in it with coins.

Yours very truly,

~~BLIND BEAD STONE.~~

H. J. Allen

JUD A-EKH.



Phonograph notes

G 1722 worn but clean, large  
cancellation

G 1726 slightly worn, shows  
dark in places

H 1870 worn, marked

I 1876 worn, partly dirty

These four notes have  
been carefully examined and

facturer direct, but I thought that the figure you sent was perhaps for the order as coming from you. If we could get the boxes made for \$15 per thousand all sizes, we could communicate with the manufacturer, if you would send us the name and address.

Thanking you very much for your kindness in looking up the matter,



March 5th, 1921

H. D. Allen, Esq.  
8 Winter Street  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Allen:

Your very kind letter is received, and we certainly regret not seeing you when you were here.

We have four Manouvrier notes - their condition is as follows:

- G.1722 Worn but clean, large round cancellation.
- G.1576 Slightly used; shows dirt on creases.
- H.1870 Worn and soiled.
- I.1376 Worn, partly dirty.

These four notes have been carefully pressed out.

We certainly would exchange any of these notes for ones that you have, and I want to thank you in advance for your kind offer. Except for the one with the large round cancellation, our notes - until yours turned up - were considered very creditable notes.

We have found by experience that collectors prefer to work with our pieces upstairs in the Coin room where they can get at them and study them as they wish, rather than have the pieces in exhibition cases. Our Museum is really a working museum for collectors rather than a display museum for the general public. We try to harmonize both viewpoints and keep on display the more popular and more spectacular of our pieces; and as it is manifestly impossible to show all that we have, we rotate our crops, so to speak, and keep changing our exhibits.

Our paper money is so arranged that we can take the various sheets out of our books and place them in our Show cases. This we have done a number of times - in fact, I think our paper money has been shown in various sections at least one-tenth of the time since I have been here.

I am making this explanation as I do not want you to think that our paper money is in any sense buried; it is available to anyone who wants to see it.

Very truly yours,



RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED ARTICLE

Registered at the Post Office Indicated in Postmark

Complete record of registered mail is kept at the post office, but the sender should write the name of the addressee on back hereof as an identification. Preserve and submit this receipt in case of inquiry.

POSTMASTER,

Form 3806.

Per

No. 452698

Class postage

Postmark clearly,  
showing  
date and office.

c5-6852

May 3rd, 1921

Mr. H. D. Allen  
8 Winter Street  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Allen:

Your favour enclosing the four Manouvrier notes received, and in behalf of the Society I beg to thank you for your courtesy in sending these on. I am herewith enclosing our notes in exchange.

A little later I will see that the Manouvrier notes are exhibited. Just at the present time our whole floor is given over to an exhibition of Napoleonic coins and medals, commemorating the anniversary of his death which occurred the fifth of this month.

Again thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E  
Encs.



# Allen's Boston Bead Store

8 WINTER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

WE HAVE ALL KINDS OF **BEADS**

For Decorating Waists and Gowns

Neck Chains

Pearl Beads

Bead Looms

Steel Beads

Beading Needles

Mourning Beads

Bags and Purses

Seed Beads

Hudson Bay Beads for Portieres

*Send Stamp for Descriptive Circulars and Samples*



Coat Chain



Crystal Olive Chain

CROCHET AND TATTING THREADS

D · M · C THREADS AND NOTIONS

Boston, May 5, 1921

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
Broadway, Bet. 155th and 156th St.  
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have received the Manouvrier  
Notes you sent and you have a much better  
collection than you had before. I have no  
special need of the bills you sent me except  
to reduce my investment on the nice bills I  
obtained unexpectedly.

Yours very truly,

H. D. ALLEN